



metrochamber
SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 18, 2009

Mary Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

**Re: Agenda Item 09-8-5: Public Meeting to present ARB's Draft
Recommendations to Implement Further Locomotive and Railyard
Emission Reductions**

Dear Ms. Nichols, Members of the ARB, and Mr. Goldestene:

On behalf of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, I would like to take the opportunity to comment on the ARB staff's *Draft Recommendations to Implement Further Locomotive and Railyard Emission Reductions* being presented to the Board Members at the September 23, 2009 board meeting. The Metro Chamber strongly believes that an incentive-based program, aimed to maximize the emissions efficiency benefits of rail transportation, is the most effective way to yield pollutant emission benefits.

The Metro Chamber recognizes that we all need to take responsibility and work together to improve air quality to ensure that our region and the state of California meet federal air quality standards. Additionally, we need to be prudent about the way in which we implement and achieve emission reduction goals, especially in a down economy. It is our belief the best way to achieve improved air quality and emission reduction goals is through incentive-based programs and voluntary agreements that generate positive results without placing onerous regulations on industry and the business community.

Transporting goods by rail is important both regionally and nationally, as it helps to reduce green house gasses and improves freeway congestion by removing large trucks from the roads. Rail is the most environmentally sound way to move goods over land and is a key component of the goods movement system in California and across the nation. Additionally, rail transportation plays a vital role in international trade, which is a critical economic engine in our state and must be allowed to thrive, especially in tough economic times. An incentive program preserves competitiveness and efficiency of the goods movement system, while driving down emissions to protect employees' and residents' health in California.

The Sacramento Metro Chamber is the largest, oldest and most prominent voice of business in the greater Sacramento area. Representing nearly 2,300 member businesses and business organizations in the six county Sacramento region, the Sacramento Metro Chamber serves as the region's leading proponent of regional cooperation and primary advocate on issues affecting business, economic development and quality of life.

Again, on behalf of the Metro Chamber, I respectfully urge the California Air Resources Board to pursue an incentive program, necessary to maximize the emissions efficiency benefits of rail transportation.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Mahood
CEO/President

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